

Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to support LR 32 as amended by the committee and let me make just a couple of initial comments in support of this measure and I know others wish to speak to it as well. Let me first emphasize the fact that this bill represents an opportunity to the voters to have an opportunity to decide whether or not the members of the Board of Regents of the University system should be appointed or elected. Now I'm sure some people are going to raise the hue and cry that once again we're taking away a vote of the people, but, colleagues, we're not doing that. We're not doing that. What we're allowing by way of this constitutional amendment is the people themselves to decide whether or not they wish to continue to elect their regents or to pass a constitutional amendment calling for them to be appointed. Now let me indicate, let me give you a couple of the reasons why I think the people of the State of Nebraska, all of the voters, ought to be given an opportunity to make that decision. Now, first of all, there are only seven universities and five states that elect their regents or trustees. Upwards of 70 major public universities, virtually 90 percent of all of the major public universities of the size with the responsibilities and duties of the University of Nebraska have appointed regents. And of the seven universities that do have elected regents they are in only five states, in Colorado, Michigan, Illinois, Nevada and Nebraska. Now in addition to that the vast majority of all the University of Nebraska's peer institutions are governed by appointed boards. Of the ten so-called peer institutions of UNL, institutions that have been selected for purposes of setting faculty salaries and other comparability concepts, eight of the ten appoint their regents. All nine of the peer institutions of UNO appoint their governing boards and four of the five peer institutions of the Medical Center, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, appoint their regents. I needn't remind you that the Nebraska State College System has appointed members and I have never myself heard any serious criticisms about the quality of the individuals that have been appointed by our Governors through the years to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. So in conclusion, appointment is by far the major mode of governance for the nation's universities whether it is small states or large states, whether it is land grant